

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces any and all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of selectively forming non-covalent complexes and initiating intermolecular reactions with amine group-containing compounds, comprising reacting the amine group-containing compound with a second compound comprising: (1) at least one cyclic ~~erown~~ ether group; and (2) a moiety selected from acidic groups, transition metal binding groups and diazo groups, wherein the transition metal binding group is selected from alkyls, heteroalkyls, alkenyls, heteroalkenyls, aryls, heteroaryl, alkaryl, and alkheteroaryl, and further wherein the amine-group containing compound is an amino acid, a peptide, or a protein.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the cyclic ~~erown~~ ether is 18-crown-6 ether.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the acidic group is benzoic acid.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the transition metal binding group is a polyamine.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the transition metal is selected from Ag(I), Fe(III), Co(II), Zn(I), Zn(II), Mn(II), Ni(II), Pd(II), Cu (I) and Cu(II).
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the diazo group is -C(N₂)-
8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the moiety is attached to the cyclic ~~erown~~ ether group through an ether or an ester linker.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the amine group-containing compound comprises at least one protonated amine.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the amine group-containing compound comprises at least one primary amine.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the amine group-containing compound is a peptide or protein comprising at least one lysine.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the formation of non-covalent complexes and initiation of intermolecular reactions is conducted in the gas phase.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the formation of non-covalent complexes and initiation of intermolecular reactions is conducted in solution.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the intermolecular reaction is the selective cleavage of a peptide backbone.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the moiety is selected from acidic groups and transition metal binding groups.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-covalent complex is formed with a peptide via carbene insertion chemistry.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the moiety is a diazo group.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second compound further comprises a detectable label.

19. (Currently amended) A compound capable of selectively forming non-covalent complexes and initiating intermolecular reactions with amine group-containing compounds,

wherein the compound comprises: (1) at least one cyclic ~~erown~~ ether group; and (2) a moiety selected from acidic groups, transition metal binding groups and diazo groups, wherein the transition metal binding group is selected from alkyls, heteroalkyls, alkenyls, heteroalkenyls, aryls, heteroaryls, alkaryls, and alkheteroaryls, and further wherein the amine-group containing compound is an amino acid, a peptide, or a protein.

20. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 19, wherein the cyclic ~~erown~~ ether is 18-crown-6 ether.

21. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 19, which comprises one cyclic ~~erown~~ ether group.

22. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 19, which comprises two cyclic ~~erown~~ ether groups.

23. (Original) The compound of claim 19, wherein the moiety is an acidic group.

24. (Original) The compound of claim 23, wherein the acidic group is benzoic acid.

25. (Original) The compound of claim 19; wherein the moiety is a transition metal binding group.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) The compound of claim ~~[[26]]~~ 25, wherein the transition metal binding group is a polyamine.

28. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 27, wherein the transition metal binding group is phenanthroline.

29. (Original) The compound of claim 25, wherein the transition metal is selected from Ag(I), Fe(III), Co(II), Zn(I), Zn(II), Mn(II), Ni(II), Pd(II), Cu (I) and Cu(II).

30. (Original) The compound of claim 19, wherein the moiety is a diazo group.

31. (Original) The compound of claim 30, wherein the diazo group is $-C(N_2)-$.

32. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 19, wherein the moiety is attached to the cyclic crown ether group through an ether or an ester linker.

33. (Original) The compound of claim 19, which further comprises a detectable label.